



Integrated Management Navigation System (I-MANAGE) Program Newsletter

January 2003

BMIS/Phoenix Is Now I-MANAGE!

Since the last BMIS/Phoenix newsletter, significant changes have taken place with respect to the project scope and organization. The Department had planned to implement the core financial system portion of this effort (Phoenix) at the beginning of FY 2003; however, two significant actions during FY 2002 resulted in a reconfiguration and refocusing of the BMIS/Phoenix project into the Integrated Management Navigation System (I-MANAGE) program.

First, in mid-summer 2002 the Department developed an E-Government Strategic Action Plan in response to the President's Management Agenda goal of expanding electronic government. To develop the plan, DOE conducted Project IDEA (Innovative Department of Energy E-Government Applications), an initiative aimed at more prudently introducing and managing information technology across the Department's business lines. After a comprehensive assessment of needs and priorities, the Project IDEA Team identified a portfolio of most promising initiatives and prepared the plan to implement these initiatives Department-wide.

Second, in July 2002 the Department's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer directed an independent study to evaluate whether the BMIS/Phoenix project, as conceived, would realize the vision of integrated corporate business systems, and would be consistent with the Department's overall Enterprise Architecture. The study concluded that the project was on the right path generally, but emphasized the need for more interaction with program offices and major contractors, and the need to ensure integration with other DOE corporate business systems and with the DOE Corporate Enterprise Architecture.

As the result of Project IDEA and the independent study, the BMIS/Phoenix project has been substantially refocused into the I-MANAGE program. I-MANAGE will focus on providing program managers with desktop access to timely, decision-quality management information. The core of I-MANAGE is a corporate data warehouse, which will serve as a "knowledge bank" of information about portfolios, programs, or projects including budget execution, program costs, performance achieved, and critical milestones met. User alerts will be provided based on business rules defined specifically for each program office and directed to the appropriate executive or manager for action. I-MANAGE will provide this information by integrating the Department's business management systems for financial and cost accounting; budget formulation and execution; procurement and contracts management; facilities management, human resources management; travel; payroll; and, research and development into a single interactive whole to achieve efficiencies not available by managing them separately.

Chris Simpson, Director of OMBE's Office of Management Analysis has been appointed I-MANAGE Program Manager. An I-MANAGE Integration Team has also been established, which consists of individuals from Headquarters Program and Staff Offices as well as a number of field offices. Integration Team members will have critical roles in the development of system requirements and business rules to define what data will be captured and how the data will be used. Plans are underway to prepare for a team kick-off meeting on January 8, 2003.

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What will I-MANAGE accomplish?

The I-MANAGE Program will contribute materially to improved financial performance, budget and performance integration, and expanded e-government (all part of the President's Management Agenda). The I-MANAGE Program will: provide near real time information for managers, ensure common goals and objectives are identified and followed, eliminate redundant systems and data, provide more efficient use of finite human resources, and allow DOE programs and projects to be managed as a portfolio with visibility and understanding of interrelationships, cost/benefits, and dependencies. A blueprint for unified systems will be established and followed to align with the Department's Enterprise Architecture and cyber-security standards.

What does I-MANAGE encompass?

The I-MANAGE Program will modernize and integrate the Department's major business systems. This initiative will comprise a number of corporate system components, as follows:

Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS), formerly known as Phoenix, will provide the Department with a modern, comprehensive, and responsive financial management system that will be the foundation for linking budget formulation, budget execution, financial accounting, financial reporting, cost accounting, and performance measurement. Laura Kramer and Don Cox, the STARS project managers, have worked with the I-MANAGE Program Office to revise the STARS project plans to accommodate an accounting system design that fully supports a data warehouse linking common data elements from all of the corporate business systems. We plan to implement STARS at the beginning of October 2004. Much work has already been done to prepare the Department to field a new accounting system, and that work was incorporated into the revised design plans.

I-MANAGE Data Warehouse project is scheduled for kick-off in January 2003. The Project Manager, Steve Baker, from OMBE, currently manages the Financial Data Warehouse (FDW) Project and is familiar with data warehousing concepts. Several components of the I-MANAGE Data Warehouse already exist in separate databases or repositories. These components, including the FDW, will be integrated into the I-MANAGE Data Warehouse. The I-MANAGE Data Warehouse will contain critical information from multiple corporate systems such as human resources, payroll, procurement, and financial management to illustrate just a few examples. This data will be aggregated and summarized to provide mission critical reporting and query capability. As a key component of the I-MANAGE Program, the Department will rely on the Data Warehouse for internal executive, management, and operational reporting, and as the authoritative source for external ad-hoc requests for data. This data-centric approach to managing and integrating data will allow the Department to rapidly respond to new and changing demands for information. This effort is important not only to future system development, but also to legacy systems by creating the ability to integrate information from all organizational elements in a single corporate repository.

Standard Budget System initiative will begin in January 2003. Jo Buxton, from OMBE, will be leading this effort. One of the most critical financial functions of every government agency is the preparation and submission of the annual budget. It is imperative that the Department achieves a unified budget formulation, execution, and accounting process all linked through the Data Warehouse. Also, OMB wants to ensure that the Budget and Performance goals and targets are tightly linked. Jo and her team will be identifying ways to more efficiently tie these processes together while meeting the needs of program and project managers. Strong emphasis is being placed on efficient, real-time management of our financial assets, then monitoring and measuring the performance those assets provide in support of our missions. This new focus is government-wide and imposes major changes in our processes to achieve and maintain compliance.

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E-Procurement is another very important component of the overall vision and the I-MANAGE program. Douglas Baptist from the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management is leading this initiative to replace and consolidate as many as 30 procurement-related systems across the Department. The goal is to utilize existing enterprise financial management functionality to accomplish an integrated solution. Implementation of e-Procurement is dependent upon the timely completion of STARS and the I-MANAGE Data Warehouse Projects.

Corporate Human Resource Information System (CHRIS) encompasses the corporate systems that support human resource processing and information for the Department's employees and is the official system of record for human resource management. CHRIS was the first I-MANAGE component to be successfully implemented. Even though CHRIS is operational, many system enhancements and upgrades are being planned. Michael Fraser is leading the CHRIS effort along with Enid Levine from the Office of Human Resources Management.

It is important to note that the successful integration of budgetary, accounting, performance and personnel data is as much an organizational effort as a technical effort. These systems will provide the foundation for capturing and reporting integrated budget, cost, and performance data. However, it requires a significant investment of resources to:

- Develop, quantifiable, verifiable performance objectives directly linked to the organization's strategic plan.
- Establish a consistent metric framework for the entire organization.
- Refine the current budget structure, or design a new structure that may be directly linked with key performance indicators.
- Resist the temptation to develop custom software.

As you can see, the I-MANAGE Program is large and complex. Thank you for spending a few minutes to become familiar with this major Departmental initiative!

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Program and Project Sites:

<http://www.I-MANAGE.doe.gov>

<http://www.STARS.doe.gov>

<http://stars.me.doe.gov/>

(To be developed in near future)

Contact Us